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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Outcome of Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22 to 26 June 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/209 of December 2012, the Assembly, in looking forward to regional platforms scheduled in 2014, stressed the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process for the Third World Conference.

2. The Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held from 22 to 26 June 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, producing a meeting statement which read:

"The Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

"Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand 22 – 26 June 2014

"Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2014

"*We*, the Ministers, and Heads of Delegation of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, attending the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in Bangkok, hosted by the Royal Thai Government, 22 to 26 June 2014;

"*Deeply concerned* by the increasing impact and risk of disasters in the Asia-Pacific, including the super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; floods in Thailand, China and India; earthquakes in Pakistan; earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia and Japan, and an increasing number of medium and small scale disasters that resulted in huge social, economic and environmental losses in the region; and the adverse impacts of climate change which countries are already experiencing increased impacts.

"*Recognizing* the achievements of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), which has developed policies and institutions for disaster risk reduction; increased the understanding of risk; strengthened early warning systems; enhanced public awareness and disaster risk reduction education; and strengthened preparedness capacities; while acknowledging that there are significant gaps and challenges in implementation of five priorities areas under the HFA for which more work needs to be done.

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"*Noting* the Chair's Summary of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013, which called on all governments and stakeholders to target the root causes of risk;

"*Noting* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, entitled "The future we want," that called for disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels;

"*Noting* the General Assembly resolution 68/211 that welcomed the deliberations of the regional platforms and meetings, which have provided critical contributions to the consultations on the *post -2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)* and invited voluntary commitments by all stakeholders and their networks to support the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

"*Appreciating* the leadership of the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Federation of Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Indonesia and the Royal Thai Government in hosting the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction successively, and the progress in implementing the Declarations of these Conferences;

"*Realizing* the need to focus on causes of risk and the anthropogenic nature of risk, including climate change and variability; on reducing existing risks; on avoiding the accumulation of new risk; on low profile and recurrent disasters that increase the vulnerability of poor people;

"*Recognizing th*e importance of people-centered development models, which reduce the impact of uncertainties and increase self-immunity of local communities as guided by, inter alia, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of His Majesty the King of Thailand as recognized by the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award;

"*Appreciating* the participation and partnership of stakeholder groups such as i) Children, Youth and Child-centred Organizations, ii) Civil Society Organizations, iii) Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Disability, iv) Individuals and Organizations Concerned with Women and Gender Issues, v) Mayors and Local Government Authorities, vi) Media, vii) National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent, viii) Parliamentarians, ix) Private Sector and x) Science, Technology and Academia Stakeholders in the AMCDRR and their voluntary commitments to support national policies and programmes to reduce risk and build resilience;

"*Acknowledging* the learning from the HFA that sustainable development and poverty eradication require disaster and climate risk management as an integral part of developmental planning and programmes. This will sharpen the HFA Priorities for Action so that public policies prioritize and address risk through effective risk management actions at all levels though concerted efforts involving all stakeholders with clearer roles and responsibilities.

"*Recognizing* the progress made in early warning, education and awareness raising, disaster preparedness, response and recovery and stressing the need for their further strengthening at regional, national and local levels to contribute to resilience and sustainable development;

"*Acknowledging* the important role of science and technologies in promoting risk prevention and risk reduction by strengthening the capacities of national, sub-national, and local governments, as well as collaboration among the science community, decision

makers, and practitioners with a view to promoting a stronger science interface with policy and practice for disaster risk reduction and resilience;

"Appreciating the past two-year multistakeholder consultations by governments, intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific which led to the 'Asia-Pacific input document for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)'. The document lays out priority issues to be further discussed in the HFA2 and highlights a potential way forward;

"Recommending the 'Asia Pacific input document for HFA2' as one of the regional contributions for deliberation at the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (3WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan on 14-18 March 2015;

"Recognizing the central role and responsibility of national governments in the framing and execution of disaster risk reduction policy and the establishment of disaster risk reduction national platforms in their respective countries;

"Acknowledging the need for all stakeholders to exercise transparency and accountability in finances and resource mobilization related to disaster risk reduction and resilience;

"Call on all Governments and stakeholders to:

"On Enhancing Resilience at Local Levels: Encourage the institutionalization of integrated community resilience approaches into local development planning; promote comprehensive school safety; promote disaster resilient villages to serve as a strong basis for creating community based disaster risk reduction at the local level; promote inclusion and volunteer/community-based networks; strengthen the role of women as leaders in local level resilience-building; develop community-local government and private sector partnerships and accountability, giving attention to meaningful participation and positive contribution of at-risk groups such as children and youth, the older persons, persons with disabilities, as well as other disadvantaged groups; take advantage of traditional knowledge and communication scientific information in simple, accessible and understandable manner; encourage the development of and the enforcement of laws and regulation to reduce exposure to risk; recognizing the role of ecosystem based DRR and integrating livelihood resilience and natural resource management as a holistic approach to disaster resilient communities especially in coastal and mountain areas.

"On Improving Public Investments for Disaster and Climate Risk Management to Protect and Sustain Development Gains: Encourage risk-sensitive investments with accountability measures in development plans across sectors; strengthen the capacity of institutions to develop, analyze and use risk information in development planning and implementation; and consider the benefits of financial protection strategies in order to promote resilient public investments, especially in high risk areas.

"On Private Sector Role – Public and Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction: Encourage a shift from response-oriented actions to risk-informed investments as part of the business process; increase dialogue among all stakeholders to identify barriers and opportunities to build an enabling environment for public-private and other partnerships; encourage the development of regulations, incentives and tools to motivate improvement in disaster risk management by the private sector with an emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises; strengthen private sector commitments to integrate risk assessment and use of risk information indecision making and practices, contributing to their business sustainability and resilience as well as of the environment in which they operate.

"*On Science and Technology:* Promote the use and further development of science, technology, and innovation; strengthen exchanges among science, technology and

innovation communities for synergies; make innovation and technology accessible, available and affordable to national governments and local communities through development and transfer of technology; share best practices and data through, inter-alia, open sources and networking; promote hazard and risk assessments, scenario building, and other research and studies on disaster risk reduction; empowering national efforts to improve collection and sharing of comparable data on disaster losses, hazards, and vulnerabilities and sharing for best practices.

"On enhancing governance, transparency, and accountability: Enhance financial tracking and transparency mechanisms to ensure that funds and resources provided for disaster risk reduction and resilience reach intended beneficiaries particularly in the local level in a timely, predictable, and accountable manner.

"On the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction: Contribute to the global deliberations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; develop an 'Asia-Pacific regional HFA2 implementation plan' in full consultation and agreement of countries; contribute to an enhanced monitoring and review mechanism to measure the progress in implementing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the commitments made at the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction; promote higher education, training and research for professional development in disaster risk reduction.

"On building coherence between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the concurrent processes on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change arrangements: Make disaster and climate risk management important in the elaboration of post-2015 sustainable development agenda at the national and regional levels; encourage disaster risk assessment in development policies and programs; promote, as appropriate, sustainable development strategies that enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably and reduce disaster risk; consider the integration of disaster risk reduction in all development sectors through legal, institutional and resource allocation frameworks with enhanced accountability; express hope that the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development address sufficiently the building of resilience to disasters as a priority area in the post-2015 development agenda; encourage all stakeholders including national and local governments, communities, international organizations and the private sector to address disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development in a coherent manner.

"Resolved to:

"Invite the Royal Thai Government – the host of the 6th AMCDRR – and the governments from the Asia Pacific region, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Asia Pacific Regional Office and members of the ISDR Asia Partnership, to carry the messages of the Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (hereinafter referred to as *the Declaration*) to the global process towards the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015;

"Encourage inclusion of the actions adopted in this *Declaration* into national policies, strategies, and action plans, deliver the commitments made by governments and stakeholder groups, and share the progress in the next AMCDRR;

"Call on national governments and other stakeholders, including the United Nations system, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions, regional and interregional groups, national organizations, National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent, and civil society organizations and their networks to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, in particular the 'Asia Pacific regional HFA2 implementation plan' and the priority actions stated in this *Declaration*; and establish a technical working group within the ISDR Asia Partnership to

undertake a study to promote linkages and synergies of national, sub-regional and regional disaster risk reduction strategies and plans in Asia and the Pacific;

"Call on the UNISDR as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction to enhance its regional capacity and, in consultation with the ISDR system partners, provide an improved monitoring system to be made available to all governments and intergovernmental organizations and periodically review the implementation of the HFA2; facilitate the partnership among all stakeholders towards the development of the 'Asia-Pacific regional HFA2 implementation plan'; continue to convene the Regional Platform and function as the secretariat of the ISDR Asia Partnership; provide technical stewardship and generate evidence, in collaboration with governments and partners, to support the HFA2 implementation;

"Welcome the stakeholders' Voluntary Commitment Statements in Annexes I-X[1] and the Yogyakarta Declaration progress report in Annex XI, as an integral part of this *Declaration*; and call on all stakeholder groups to participate in the development of the 'Asia-Pacific regional HFA2 implementation plan' and periodically report on the delivery of their 'Voluntary Commitment Statements' in Regional Platform meetings; and

"Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organizing the Sixth AMCDRR and look forward to the convening of the Seventh AMCDRR in 2016.

"*Adopted* on 26 June 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand."

[1] Available at < http://6thamcdrr-thailand.net/6thamcdrr/Outcome-Documents>.